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The Midlands news website for the LGBT community



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The Editor's Note Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

The merry month of May is upon us, and that means the 2015 Pride season is under way. What it also means, of course, is that the city of Birmingham is once again hosting its very own Pride festival, the nineteenth such event since that tentative inaugural bash way back in the 20th century - or 1997, to be precise!

So this Birmingham Pride, be proud of the city, be proud of this most colourful of festivals, be proud of the progress which has been made in terms of LGBT rights here in the UK. And alongside that feeling of pride, determine to offer whatever help and support you can to those global LGBT citizens less fortunate than ourselves.

Proud of Pride



And what an event Pride is promising to be. We've got a bumper Pride leature in this issue to help you navigate your way through two days of fun-packed partying, so I'll refrain from using these particular column inches to wax lyrical in any amount of detail about the pleasures that lie in wait come the 23rd and 24th of this month.

What I will point out, however, is that the second city's annual LGBT shindig has never been in better shape - so if you've not attended before, this really is the perfect year to gird your loins and dip your toe in the rainbow-coloured water.

If there's one element of Pride 2015 that I would like to flag up here, though, it's got to be the Carnival Parade, not only because it kicks off the event in real style but also because of its theme this year - Freedom - Together United. At a time when the gay community in the UK has got the heady scent of real equality in its nostrils, our LGBT brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are facing terrible atrocities on account of their sexuality. It's right and proper that Birmingham Pride acknowledges this, and that, as our own situation here on home soil becomes ever more acceptable, we share a thought for those who're far less fortunate, and whose LGBT status sees them being treated like second-class citizens. In many cases, of course, gay people around the world have to endure an even more profound kind of suffering, such as loss of their liberty, terrible torture and, in some cases, even the threat of the death penalty.

Goodbye, Paul...



The Midlands LGBT community was in a state of shock last month following the death of former Birmingham Pride Chairperson Paul Steeples. Paul had been well known on the Birmingham gay scene for many a year and played a vital role in helping to establish and develop Pride in its early days. He was only a still-young 59 at the time of his death. Midlands Zone would like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes to his family and friends. He will be very greatly missed by a very great number of people. RIP, Paul.

Home comforts?

At the time of going to print it's just been announced that HIV home-test kits have become available for the first time ever in the UK. The kit, which provides people with a result in just 15 minutes, detects antibodies on a small drop of blood. Experts are advising that any positive tests must be reconfirmed by health professionals. The arrival of these kits could prove to be a real game-changer in terms of the 26,000 or so people in the UK who're living with HIV but don't even know it. Whereas a trip to a clinic to get tested may seem too daunting an undertaking for many people, there's now the opportunity to check your status in the privacy of your own home.

Let's hope these kits are yet another significant breakthrough in the battle against HIV.

That's all for now, Have a good one...

Ryanx

What's Hot!

Trans documentaries on Channel Four



Channel Four has commissioned three documentaries about trans and gender-variant young people. Firecracker, the company making the shows, says: "The documentaries will follow the families as they share their situation with friends, and get to meet other families going through the same thing."

Uni's a drag - but in the best possible way!



Edge Hill University in Lancashire is to offer its performing arts students the chance to learn about the art of drag. The brand new course is a real ground-breaker, so well done to Edge Hill for taking the plunge. Conchita Wurst will no doubt be delighted if she finds out!

What's Not!

Irish eyes not smiling



Northern Ireland's Health Minister Jim Wells claims that children who're raised by same-sex parents are 'more likely' to be abused. We're pleased to say that Mr Wells quit his post a few days after making the statement.



Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).

Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:

Date: Every Tuesday

Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ

City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Date: Every Wednesday

Place: City Celts Sauna, 33 New Bond

Street, Leicester, LE1 4RO

Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:

Date: Every Thursday

Place: Splash Spa & Leisure, 61 Bedford

Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR



You can also check out Trade Sexual Health www.tradesexualhealth.com

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



Staffordshire and NHS Stoke on Trent Partnership

For more info info@galaxyyouth.co.uk 0300 123 0970

Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.



f Gay Galaxyyouth Centre



Perdes Simplay

Saathi Club Promoter Birmingham

> Bom: Birmingham Star sign: Sagittarius

Age: 42

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This issue our focus turns on Perdes Simplay, the promoter for popular Asian club night Saathi.

About Perdes

Where did you grow up?

I was born and brought up in Handsworth, Birmingham, My family are from the Punjabi in

Single or attached?

I am very proud to say that I sustained a long-term relationship with a beautiful and caring man for over twelve years. We helped and supported each other as a couple and presented as such. even though we were not out as gay men within our own families or communities. I believe there are far more challenges within gay relationships. There are, of course, added pressures given that we both host Saathi and, in that respect, are seen as public figures. There was very much an onus on us to show that gay Asian men can have loving relationships against the odds. Our relationship ended in April 2015 and, as I like to say when people ask about my personal life, "there's no more Posh & Becks".

What makes you happy?

I am happy when I see that those who I am closest to and love are happy. I myself struggle with the notion of happiness for several reasons. I have learned that I need to keep my life simple, and this brings me much joy.

What makes you sad?

I am saddened when I see and meet good people in my life who are experiencing unhappiness. I am deeply saddened when children in particular are subjected to abuse and their experience of childhood is not a fond one.

What makes you angry?

I don't tolerate discrimination in any form. Growing up, I noticed that boys were treated more favourably than girls. In addition to that, I have also experienced racism and homophobia.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I am learning to become a better man, I think change is very important for us as individuals, and we should all look to change in that respect.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I have several. I recall DJing at a wedding and introducing by name the bride as the groom and the groom as the bride.

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?

I would, yet no Indian prince has

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

When I knew I wasn't straight. It was from quite an early age, There was always that feeling of feeling different.

When did you come out?

I came out in my late teens and never, ever looked back.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

I went to an all-boys school (not Eton!). I was very much myself

and my experiences were okay. I was, of course, still bullied and called names, but there were a few excellent teachers who would challenge this.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?

came out to Mrs Berman and Mr Rollason, two of my favourite teachers. They were highly supportive and have very much shaped how I look at myself in terms of a gay identity. They were instrumental in my acceptance of my own sexuality and encouraged me to be proud of it.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

That it takes time if, of course, they are uncomfortable within themselves.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?

I kissed a girl and I liked it. Enough said.

About Saathi

What was the motivation for starting Saathi?

Saathi came from an idea within a group of gay Asian men that I worked with whilst I was at HGL (Healthy Gay Life). The idea was to create a social space for South Asian men and women. I had previously hosted events of a similar vein in London, and was part of the world's first Asian gay club. Shaktee, which was set up by Shiyananda Khan OBE, Saathi soon grew and became an independent brand, Since its birth on

Friday 13 July 2001, a small team of dedicated family and friends has played a vital role in its suc-

How was Saathi first received?

Saathi started at The Village Bar and had a great response. We have moved three times since our launch and are currently at the Nightingale.

What have you got in store for Saathl In 2015?

It's out 14th birthday and we have a few surprises in store leading up to the big day.

What's the blogest challenge you face whilst organising Saathl?

Working with the dynamics of a club venue and managing the right balance of people who come to support Saathi.

How rewarding do you find running Saathi?

It's the best feeling in the world to stand looking out on hundreds of people of different sexualities, faiths, genders and backgrounds who are all united and simply want to drink and dance!

Where would you like to see Saathl in five years times?

To take it all over the world and

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay

I've been clubbing from the age of 16, when the legal age of entry was 18 and the age of consent was 21.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

Naila Price - Saathi's and the world's first drag compere (obvi-

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

DJ Ritu (Club Kali).

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

Men and music.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

It's a lot, lot younger than in my

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

By having venues across the city, not just in a quarter,

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

Saathi, obviously!

What do you do to relax? Go abroad.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I've stopped watching television, I don't own one. I used to quite like watching Wonder Woman.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

The Saathi website! Shameless plug!

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I enjoy going to Asia and have visited India several times. I love it there, but there are Indians every-

Ouickfire

Who's your favourite actor? Cary Grant.

What's your favourite book? Numbers by John Rechy.

Half empty or half full? Half full.

What's your favourite food? Curry in a hurry.

And how about your favourite drink?

Champagne.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna.

if you could take a seifle with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

My brother, who died when he was one.





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What's On MAGAZINE GROUP

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PRIDE Massive ticket surge for Birmingham Pride tickets following line-up release, organisers reveal

Organisers of Birmingham Pride have revealed that advance ticket sales for this year's festival have surged by more than 25% compared to the same period last year.

Tickets have been selling particularly well for the event since the full line-up was revealed a few weeks ago, organisers revealed.

Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton commented: "We're very humbled by everyone's support this year, it's absolutely staggering that the ticket sales for the festival are more than 25% up over last year, it's definitely our most diverse and most exciting line-up of artists we've ever billed. There's definitely something for everyone to enjoy."

The gay festival, which provides a £20million boost to the city's leisure and tourism sector, will this year feature over 100 performers and DJs, including headliners Jess Glynne, Example, Marvin Humes, as well as '80s legends Jimmy



Somerville and Heather Small, The festival takes place in the city over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May.

Tens of thousands of people are this month set to descend on Birmingham for the city's annual Pride festival in the heart of the Gay Village.

This year's Carnival Parade, which kicks off the event and sets out from Victoria Square at midday on Saturday 23 May, is adopting Freedom - Together United as its campaigning theme.

"Preparations for Birmingham Pride are now in full swing," says Festival Director Lawrence Barton. "The buzz surrounding the two-day event has been incredible, with people excited about taking part in the Carnival Parade and seeing some big-name acts on our main stage."

Birmingham Pride also features a dance arena, cabaret marquee, funfair and free community events, in addition to a host of community stalls and refreshments,

Discounted Advance
Tickets for the festival,
which is located in Birmingham's Gay Village in
the Southside area of the
city, are available online
from www.birminghampride.com at a cost of
£14 for day tickets and
£20 for weekend tickets.

EVENTS Lucy Spraggan announced as headline act for L Fest 2015

X Factor star Lucy Spraggan is set to headline popular women's festival L Fest in July.

Offering a platform for 'unsigned and inspiring artists', the four-day event thas 22 new music acts for festivalgoers to enjoy as well as the return of some wellknown faces.



L Fest, held at Uttoxeter Racecourse, is far more than just a music festival, however, with attendees also able to enjoy theatre performance, comedy, films and workshops.

The festival takes place from Friday 17 till Monday 20 July, Tickets are now available from www.lfest.co.uk for £99.

PEOPLE Former Birmingham Pride Chairperson Paul Steeples dies

Shockwaves were sent through the Birmingham LGBT community last month as they learned that one of Birmingham Pride's founding Chairpersons has died.

Tributes poured in following the funeral of 59-year-old Paul Steeples, who was the Chairperson of Pride from 1998 until 2000.

Mr Steeples had been battling liver cancer, a fight which ended on 21 March at 6.10am when he passed away peacefully in his sleep.



He was cremated on Monday 13 April at Lodge Hill Cemetery in Selly Oak, Birmingham.

His civil partner, Adrian King, led the tributes, commenting: "Paul was a wonderful and very kind man - in fact he was my entire world - and needless to say i'm completely devastated."

Throughout the '90s Paul was Marketing Manager for the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre in the Southside district. He later went on to work for Głobal Star, the company which runs Missing Bar in Birmingham. He worked for the company for nearly 15 years.

EVENUS Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival to host two events for International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Organisers of Shropshire's annual Rainbow Film Festival have announced they will be hosting two events this month to support the international Day Against Homophobia and Transpho-

The first of the two events is a book reading and signing by Peter Scott-Presland, author of Amiable Warriors, Voilume 1: A Space To Breathe, The Story Of Gay Pioneers Who Founded The Campaign For Homosexua, Equality, 1954-1973.

The event takes place at Two Fat Rescals Café. Riverside Precinct, Pride Hill Shopping Centre, Shrewsbury, on Sunday 17 May from 2pm till 4pm. Attendees will be able to get £10 off the book scover price.



The second event is a special screening of the documentary Fagbug

The film tells the extraordinary story of Erin, whose decision to sport a rainbow stocker on her car window ed to the vehicle being spray-painted with the words 'fag' and 'U R gay' in response, Erin decided to

embark on a video documented 55,000 m e journey through 41 JS states

Fagbug is screened at The Hive in Shrewsbury on Sunday 17 May at 8pm

Tickets for the screening are £5/£4 and are available from rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

NATIONAL NEWS

HEALTH Main party leaders respond positively to HIV prevention drug

HiV and sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust has welcomed comments in support of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) from party leaders David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Millband

Dr Rosemary G. espie, Chief Executive at Terrence Higgins Trust said "This cross-party praise for PrEP goes to show just how senously PrEP is being taken as a vital tool in our efforts to reduce HIV transmission in the UK

"We need to turn these positive words nto action so PrEP can be made available on the NHS for those most at risk as soon as possible."

PRIDE X Factor winner Sam Bailey confirmed as headline act for Leicester Pride 2015

The Leicester Pride committee has announced that Sam Balley, winner of the tenth series of X Factor, will headline the event's main stage on Saturday 5 September at Victoria Park, Leicester.

The announcement is a huge milestone for the annual LGBT festival, with its year-on-year growth now paving the way for world-class performers

With turns-out exceeding 10,000 in recent years, the festival has grown to become one of the largest cultura, events in the city, achieving nationa recognition in the process.

"As a community-sponsored event, funding is still the biggest challenge we face every year in putting the festival on " says Leicester Pride Chairman Martyn Parker "But the continued support from ocal and national businesses as well as from Leicester City Council, is helping us to reach new heights with the event this year.

"Myself and the whole team are very excited to be welcoming Sam Balley on to the main stage in her home town for



The committee is expected to announce more main stage acts in the coming weeks. A full event guide including ine-ups will be available from July in LGBT venues and businesses across the city.

Each year the festiva, features a main stage, dance stage, and community & market stalls, as we as a funtar provided by Billy Bates & Sons. In 2012, Leicester Pride was the first pride event in the country to feature a Fitness & Weilbeing marquee, providing same-day STI testing and safe-sex packs for visitors. The marquee was designed and run by

tocal sexual health chanty Trade and proved a huge success. It has returned every year since.

"Keeping this event community focused is one of our top prior ties," continues Martyn Parker "We take great pieasure in collaborating with local businesses and charities to create an event that truly celebrates the diverse community that thrives in our city. "Running the event in this way brings its own challenges such as funding but we re pleased to see seven years of hard work is beginning to put

CHARITY Emmerdale and Cucumber stars to host Stonewall's 2015 Walk For Life

Stonewall has announced that Emmerdale star Alicya Eyo and Cucumber star and comedian Bethany Black will host its annual 10K Equality Walk on Sunday 10 May in Brighton.

Allcya is best known for her portrayal of esbian character Ruby Haswell in ITV's Emmerdaie, and was named Entertainer Of The Year at the 2014 Stonewa. Awards for her advocacy as an openly issbian role model Bethany Black is a British comedian. Her role in Channel 4's Cucumber made her the first trans actress to play a recurring transic character in a British series.

A cya Eyo said 'Tive a ways been a big supporter of Stonewall and the important work that they do, and I'm really very proud to have become more involved with their work over the last year The Equality Walk outwardly shows support for the LGBT community, and I'm de ahted to be hosting this year along with Bethany Black it's vital that we continue to support Stonewai 's work, helping to improve the lives of resbian, gay bisexual and trans people in Britain and overseas as there's still a way to go in order to chalenge and erase inequalities. So sign up for the waik, get fundraising and we'll see you there!

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us on the map."



THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

NOW THIS IS CUTE!

Straight guy asks his gay best friend to be prom date!

Here at Midlands Zone we love an "Awwww" moment. We then get bitter and envious because it never happens to usi Twitter user @anthonyseXC was surprised by his straight best friend when he was at school in Las Vegas. His pal had prepared a banner asking him to be his date for the school prom. The banner read 'You're hella gay, I'm hella str8, but you're like my brother, so be my d8?'. Cute!



WATCH THIS! The best video we've been watching this month...



If you're in a relationship you've probably heard all the stereotypical questions from your straight counterparts, such as "Are you the man or the woman?" This video features the reactions from a whole host of couples. Some funny, some serious. youtu.be kGtzTGhWye4







touring show, Sane New World. Minkands Zone caught up with hier...

How would you deline your brand of comedy in 2015, Ruby?

colectio. In trying to do what my here bill Bryson does, which is take something that think is so fascinating and then spin it into comedy. At least! have a niche, as nobody else is doing snything like this.

50 Why Sane New World?

This is a show for everybody and anybody who says things like, how can I have these critical thoughts, I shouldn't have them or I'm a fraudical write these articles. And things like How come we're no busy even when we're not? and is it too shaming to say that I do nothing?

People can't sleep at night for worrying. I'm even answering spam. I can't stop emailing. These are just some of the questions that I put to the audience. and because I got to go to Oxford and learn about how the mind works. I can discuss why this is happening.

It's not just that ₹m bitching about the weather im saying 'Okay, there's a reason for this k like every cell in your body only cares about your survival and couldn't give a shift about your happiness'

So what would be your top technique for schleving and successfully remaining in a space of manufamess?

I talk about learning to fool your brain and just keep your ear to the ground to understand When am I burning out? What's my tipping point? Why am I competing with the next guy? I talk about people blindly deciding they're gone go on X Factor without realising they have the talent of a toothpick. We think we can be all of these things but you need to have a liefd

say in the show. There was a time when we were all peasants and trien there was a change. We dien't care. We bred, we died, sha happens. Now everybody wants to be kind. Where did they get this idea? People like Sarah Palin, shinking they can run a country? What happened that gives these people this entitlement? Everybody in the audience understands that this isn't mental illness, this is our world.

You describe yourself as a poster girl for mental illness. With the election happening this month, what do you think can be done to improve understanding of these issues in

To understand that it's one in four. That it's physical. That everything that pappens that's wrong in this country, including drug use onne, child abuse, cutting, diabetes two infertility, they all come from your brain and yet there is no money in brain research. Carryou figure that one out? It's unbelievable. Then they use words like happiness. What is that ---

preeting card? They say that by 2020 k is going to be stress that kills us, and already a hundred billion a year in lost in business due to absenteeism. The National Health Service is drained from these kind of illnesses, so could they not just address the issue? Nobody, knows where to go... do a show where the audience are tearing their hair out. What does the government think is going to happen?

You've obviously got very strong opinions on this issue. What can you personally do to help change things?

Me? I go to Parliament. I've spoken in Downing Street and I don't aim to shut up

You've been quite candid about your upbringing - and in particular your relationship with your parents. Has comedy acted as a form of catharsis in dealing with inla?

No. Jennifer Sauriders had great parents and she's a genius, so you can't always say.

You started out as a straight actress. How idid the transition to comedy come about!

When I was on stage with the RSC, Alan Rickman and a few other people said I should stop acting because I wasn't good. They threw rotes at me saying, 'Get off the stage, you're iterrible'. I decided that I should do something ease, and Alan Rickman said. Write a play because you're so turnly. So I did, and he directed it. I hadn't thought of writing before that time, but it was apparent that I couldn't lact, so it was the better option.

For many, that would've been a terrible blow to the confidence, but you obviously bounced back.

It wasn't like they said 'don't do anything | They said 'you can write comedy', it was the right decision because there was a career waiting for me!

Did you find it tough making your mark as a female comedian?

was there at a time when people were so excited that there was a female being funny about being a female that I couldn't help but be successful. It was completely the right time. All the female comics before that were either fail and self-deprecating or Joan Rivers, saying what a dog sire was. When we did Girls On Top they'd never seen attractive women being unniter than men are about women. That's why we got the attention

Do you think it's easier or harder for female comics these days?

Do you see a lot of female comics? No, it don't think there are a lot of female comics. Maybel it's improving but it's still bad.

You've had your own chat show, What were your best and worse interviewing

My worst were Madonna and Donald Trump and my best were Irnelda Marcos, Tom Hanks and OJ Simpson

Why was Madonna amongst your worst?

was rear-based. I just got it all wrong a inc. when I get scared I get aggressive. It wasn't two people firting, which is what I try to do in my interviews. With her, I made her hate me pretty quickly. I was too nervous, and when i'm too nervous I get illustered.

Looking back over the past thirty-plus years what would you say was the highlight?

Doing TED talks has been a highlight, but guess most people won't know what they are they re a global set of conferences taking place under the umbrella slogan 'ideas worth spreading' > Ed). Another highlight would be being in the RSC. Then this is a highlight doing this show.

You've got a new book out called Wake The F**K Up - A Mindful Guide For The Frazzled which is due for publication in January. How's that coming glong?

Don't remind me, I'm writing it at the moment and the pressure's on. I'm off to Cape Town his evening to concentrate just on this, then I'll have the summer to complete #

Why Cape Town?

it's somewhere where I can concentrate. It's orline ocean VI'm lucky enough to be able to go where to do this.

You've toured Sane New World previously. So how has this new tour changed?

in Improving it all the time. I'm constantly writing, it's the same show in essence because there are time going on behind me and digital effects, so I'm not going that far from it.

s R scripted or do you play on audience

it's purely scripted, and then, after the intervall we have a discussion. The audience then do the talking. Then later I sign books and meet people

How has your approach to life in general changed since you trained to be a

wasn't going to be a psychotherapist. I was ust interested in the subject, and I was really interested in Oxford. I went there to learn this stuff so that I could do shows like this. How's that changed my life? Well, I now know more about a topic that I'm really interested in And I'm a higher market, no hoov else a doing if

Ruby Wax presents Sane New World at Statford Gatehouse or Friday 29 May It's May - which can only mean one thing. Yep, that's right, it's time for the best TV programme in the world - the Eurovision Song Contest! Our resident Eurovision correspondent, Dean Asker, takes a look at 2015's entries and picks out his highlights from this year's contest...

Forget The X Factor. Forget The Voice.
Forget Britain's Got Talent. The Eurovision
Song Contest, the original talent show,
celebrates its 60th edition this year. And
thanks to the fabulous Conchita Wurst,
with the rousing Rise Like A Phoenix,
we're all heading to the Austrian capital,
Vienna



Forty countries are vying to come but on top. Including, for the very first time, Australia. "But they re not in Europe!" I hear you cry Well that doesn't really matter. They we been watching the show for about 30 years down under and as a special brithday treat they've been invited to join in the fun. The Aussies love a good party, and even though it's broadcast on TV at something like 4am over there, they adore Eurovision, Their participation is meant to be a one off, but i think they re here to stay.

I guess we were all hoping Kyrie might step up to the piate to represent Austraina, but the honour has actually fallen to Guy Sebastian, a former winner of Australian dol. His entry. Ton ght Again, is a funky pop song. Think Bruno Mars mixed with Olly Murs and you I get the idea, it's my favourite and could well win, But if it does, we won't be seeing Eurovision in Sydney any time soon. It would still be hosted in a European city



So what's the rest of the competition like? Well, there are a lot, and I mean a lot, of senous ballads or mid tempo songs this year many sung by a maie/female duo. You can probably thank last year's Dutch combo. The Common Limets - who came second with Calm After The Storm for that. The strongest duets come from Estonia and Norway, with two good if somewhat earnest entries.

If you like a good dose of old fashioned Eurocamp you might be disappointed this year. The Contest seems to have grown up! That said, Sweden is sending Måns. Zelmeriów (who's fairly easy on the eye) with Heroes, a pretty strong pop song tinged with an American W. d. West fee. When it was selected it featured some very effective video art, and as a ways with Sweden - it's one of the favourites.



And watch out for Russia. Last year they were booled, but they still ended up seventh. This time round they have a very strong song interestingly all about peace and love, it rea, y could win if that happens, I It leave you to imagine how the predominantly gay audience in the half might react.



What about the UK's chances? Well, Electro Velvet another femalermale outfit - will be doing their best to improve on our 17th placing last year. Their song, Still In Love

With You is apparently an example of electro swing. Some people have compared it to the Potato Waffles advert, it is certainly different and I wish them well, but I still maintain we need to be sending something far stronger and more contemporary. Loreen's Euphona it is not.



This year's contest is also a special one for me it's the 20th contest I've been to. I started going in 1995, and, with the exception of 1999, I've been to every one since! There have been a lot of changes in that time We've lost the orchestra, you don't have to sing in your native tongue any more, and the audience sh't required to wear dinner jackets1 it a also got a lot bigger, being staged in massive concert venues, with two semefinals as well as the Saturday night extravaganza. But one thing hasn't changed. The contest is still the most exciting, fun inclusive, crazy, unmissable piece of TV you can find. Wherever you watch it, embrace it and enjoy it!

Favourites to win

So you've read Dean's 'ones to watch' for 2015's Eurovision Song Contest, but what do the bookies think? We've looked at the odds for the top five favourites and listed them below. All odds are correct at the time of going to print...

1st Sweden 11/8
2nd Italy 7/2
3rd Australia 5/1
4th Estonia 8/1
5th Finland 12/1

The first Eurovision Song Contests
semi-final takes place on Tuesday.
19 May, the second airs or
Thursday the 21st.
The grand final shows on BBC One
on Saturday 23 May, Enjoy



Legal Scene: Pre-nuptial Agreements - sensible or cynical?

Figures published by the Office for National Statistics in February showed that 974 civil partnership dissolutions were granted in England and Wales in 2013, an increase of 20% since 2012. With many gay couples having awaited the legalisation of same-sex marriage, Lee Trubshaw - Partner at solicitors Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP - examines the fors and againsts of pre-nuptial agreements for partners looking to enter into a civil partnership or marriage:

Trad tronally pre-nupt all agreements have been associated with the rich and famous, and whilst they've been legally binding in most US states and some European countries, historically they haven't been enforceable in English law. However, since a landmark ruling by the UK Supreme Court in 2010, there has been a cautious acceptance of

pre-nupt at agreements by the courts. This has been reinforced by the Law Commission's recommendation in February 2014 that they should be given full legal force.

Pre-nuptial Agreement – What it Means

A pre-nupt at agreement may also be referred to as a pre-nup, premarital arrangement or pre-civil partnership agreement. It s a formai writteri agreement entered nto before marriage or civi partnership that sets out the terms of what will happen to each party s property and assets in the event that the marriage or union comes to an end. It doesn't cover child custody or support. Whilst it s advisable to agree arrangements before a union, similar post nuptial agreements or post-civ partnership contracts may be

drawn up once the marriage or partnership has taken place.

The Legal Position

Since 2010, when the Supreme Court upheld a German heiress s pre-nup to protect her £100mil. on fortune the courts will take agreements into account. demonstrating a significant shift in attitude from 20 years ago. ncreasing y the courts will consider the provisions of pre- and post nuptial agreements in financia proceedings when a marriage or partnership breaks down. This means that the onus is on the partner looking for a better settlement to show that an agreement entered into before or after the marriage or partnership is

Law Commission Report

In February 2014 the Law
Commission published a report
cailed Matrimonial Property Needs
And Agreements which included a
draft Bill to enable married couples
and civil partners to make a
binding agreement on how
property and/or finances should
be shared between couples who
split up.

The Law Commission recommends a change in legislation so that qualifying nuptial agreements are enforceable provided that both parties have disclosed all financial information, have received independent legal advice and that agreements have been signed 28 days before a wedding/union Parliamentary consideration of the Nuptial Agreements B. I has been deferred until after the general

Why Have a Prenuptial Agreement?

Many people feet that pre-hups go against the concept of marriage or civil partnersh p. Pragmatically wewed, though, pre- and post huptial agreements are like an insurance policy to protect assets against future claims by a spouse or civil partner such as future inheritance, or personal interests if you re marrying or entering into a civil partnership for a second time or more. So, for example, if one partner is significantly wealthier than the other, they

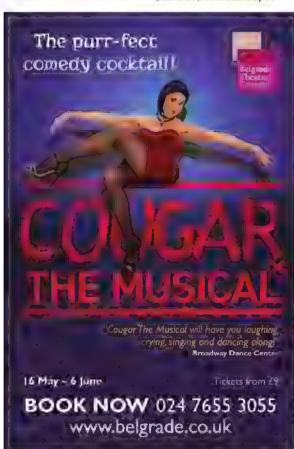
can try to keep assets out of the matrimon at pot' to avoid a 50% loss. This is especially significant if the union is short lived or there are no children, as without an agreement the courts can spirt all assets and property down the middle, each receiving half Equally, if one partner has debts when entering into a marriage/partnership, a pre-nup can be used to protect the other party from being held legally responsible for proridebts.

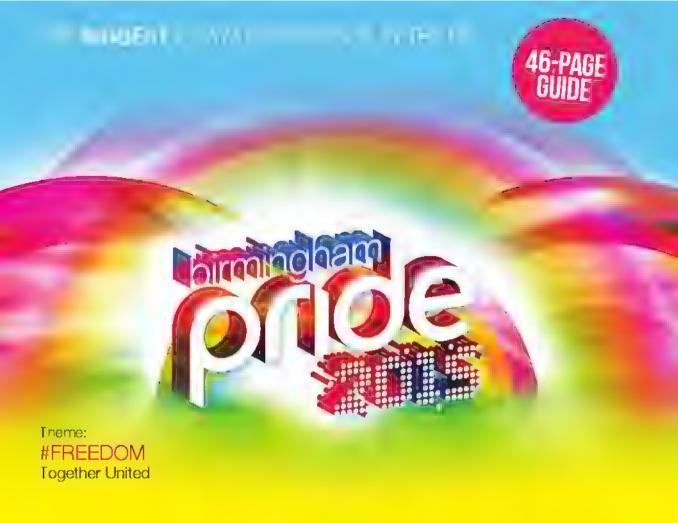
How to Make a Prenuptial Agreement

Whast generic pre-nup agreements are available to download on the Internet, an agreement really needs to be tailored to yours and your partner's specific circumstances. That's why I would always recommend using a specialist so licitor - and it's essentia, that both partners seek independent advice.

It s also unwise to rush into a prenuptial agreement, as it may be deemed by the courts that one party was under pressure which may mean the agreement will not be enforced by the court. Changes to a pre-nup may be made with the agreement of both parties

Fig. school on Howers of strongs, live partnership and other lager matter cortect Bracollin Tubehaw & Grannik Princ 01562 421840 or a consultation For more information assumes othership





Sat 23 & Sun 24 May

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SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 MAY

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THEME: #FREEDOM TOGETHER UNITED...





Inspired by the story of hit 2014 film Pride, the theme for this year's Birmingham Pride festival will be Freedom - Together United.

The theme was also chosen to reflect the fact that there's still plenty of work needed to achieve global LGBT equality and human rights - and to send the message that, by working together, we can make a difference

The iconic LGBT group Lesbians And Gays Support The Miners - who inspired and were portrayed in Pride - are set to lead the Birmingham Pride Carnival Parade

The Lesbian And Gays Support The Miners group recently reunited with the Neath, Dulais and Swansea Vailey Miners' Support Group for the first time since the miners' strike of 30 years ago

Organisers of Price are delighted that the group are getting involved in this year's parade, as it helps to re-politicise the parade.

Help Birmingham Pride spread the message of Freedom -Together United by taking part in the Carnival Parade You're encouraged to bring banners and flags to make the Parade visually stunning!

THE FREEDOM: TOGETHER UNITED THEMED CARNIVAL.

PARADETAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY 23 MAY, SETTING

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Theme.
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CARNIVAL PARADE















Get involved in the parade...

It may not be too late to get involved and enter a float or walking group! Anyone interested in participating in the parade in any way should urgently contact

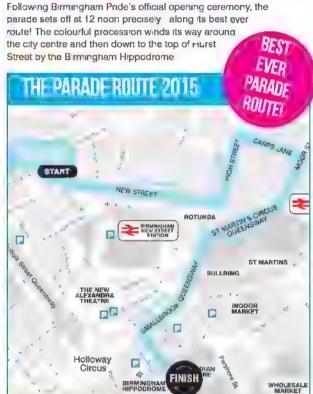
simon@birminghampride.com or cal 0121 622 1718.



Victoria Square, Birmingham City Centre Saturday 23 May at 12 noon

This year's theme...
#Freedom

Together United





Welcome to Birmingham Pride

Venue Map Key 1 HURST STREET SOCIAL 9 VIllage Inn 13 Issue Proximate Prox

- 2 The Birmingham Hippodrome (See p36)
- 3 Clone Zone (See p41)
- 6 HGL (See p90 & 91) 7 Urban Kitche .

AMUSEMENT 13

- 8 Equator
- 10 Scewak
- 14 B z
- 15 AB+
- 17 Jr 2 Sarana
- 20 The Fountain Inn

Jester

21 Tre Aetrani

BEAT THE QUEUES!

Exchange your Ticket for a Wristband early

You can exchange your ticket for a wristband on Friday 22 May at The Nightingale Club from 9am until midnight or at Victoria Square on Saturday 23 May from 10am until Midday.





Dan

Are



MAIN STAGE SATURDAY 23 MAY









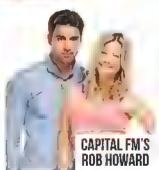
















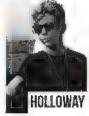




















MAIN STAGE SUNDAY 24 MAY

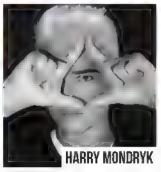






















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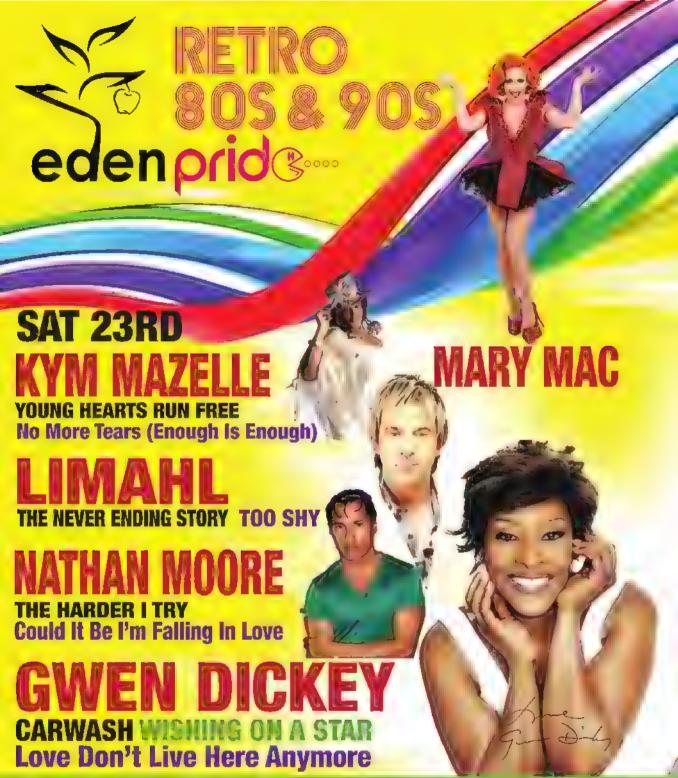




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SAT 23 MAY **CHRIS STEELE** JAMES SILVER ROB COOK **AMY RANKS RUE JAY** MARC SPENCE RATPACK DONKIE PUNCH LARRY



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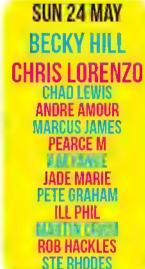


DANCE ARENA



















SATURDAY 23RD & SUNDAY 24TH MAY MIDDAY TILL MIDNIGHT

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RUE JAY / MARC SPENCE / DONKIE PUNCH PETE GRAHAM / JADE MARIE / ILL PHIL

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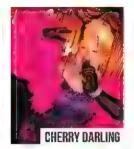
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LGBT CENTRE EVENTS

Over at the Birmingham LGBT Centre. there are plenty of things to see and do across Birmingham Pride weekend!

Saturday 23 May

A short film about the Lesbians & Gavs Support The Miners group, who are leading Birmingham Pride's Carnival Parade at midday, will be screened at 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm

Following each screening, the group will be on hand to talk about their expenences (2 45pm, 3.30pm & 4 15pm)

A special screening of hit 2014 film Pride is shown at 5pm

There's also music throughout the day from Clarion Voices (3.15pm & 4pm), and performances from Christophe (5pm), Damier Phillips (5.30pm), Faye Bagley (6pm) and Wind Down (6 45pm)





Sunday 24 May

On Sunday, the LGBT Centre hosts a mix of music, performance, film and Q&A sessions throughout the day Last year's hit film Pride is screened at 2pm.

Music comes from Zara Sykes (5pm) and Chrissie Diaz (5 30pm)

> A special performance from Acting Out takes place at 2pm, whilst the Journey Church perform at 6pm

Human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell talks about the global struggle for LGBT freedom at 3pm, and Clare Sum-

merskill presents her talk,

Gateway To Heaven, at 4pm. The centre is located on Smallbrook Queensway. right on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village



Birmingham LGBT Centre

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WOMEN'S ARENA

SAT 24 MAY



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PLUS DIS THROUGHOUT
THE DAY!

PROE

MARKET & COMMUNITY STALLS



Pride sn't just a party to ce ebrate LGBT life It's a so about community - and supporting the organisations that offer assistance to people on a daily basis. Pop by the market and stalls over the weekend and see what the various community groups are up to You'il be able to pick up a bargain or two!

FUNFAIR



Scream if you want to go faster! There are plenty of top attractions at this year's fundair to turn your knuckles well and truly white! Who knows it might just prove to be the best ride of your weekend!

There are gentier rides available for the little ones too, not to ment on bouncy castles and roundapouts!



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Tickets

£10 / £8 in advance | £12 / £10 on the door £30 Family ticket (2 adults 2 under-16s)



SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 MAY



BY BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SATURDAY 23 MAY

The Midlands' very own Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO) is presenting a special Pride Proms concert on the weekend of Birmingham Pride.

The event, held in conjunction with Birmingham Pride, takes place at Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, on Saturday 23 May at 7pm, and features proms favourites, well-known anthems and popular tunes

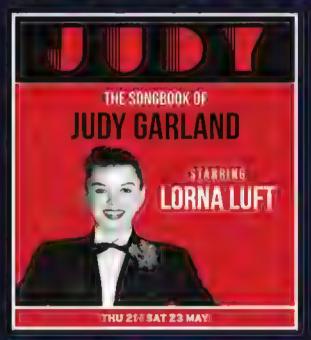
The orchestra is primarily made up of Birmingham and Midlands-based musicians. So if you're looking for something a bit different to do over the Pride weekend, be sure to pop along and experience what promises to be a magical evening of music

Advance tickets for the Pride Proms concert are available from www pgso.co uk for £10 (£8 concessions), or on the door at a price of £12 (£10 concessions). Family tickets are also available (2 adults and 2 under-16s) for just £30.

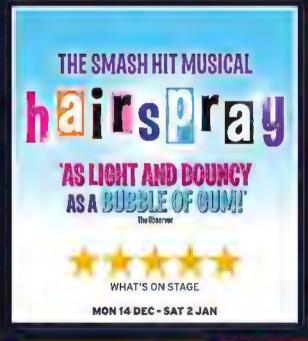




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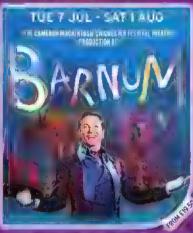


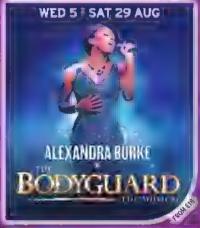


















SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 MAY

STAYING OVER





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Visiting Birmingham from elsewhere in the country? If so, there's plenty of accommodation available in the city centre, with over 8,000 beds to suit every taste and budget.

Amonast the best places to stay is the stunning Radisson Blu, a 39-storey glass skyscraper located on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village and just a five-minute walk away from the weekend's action. The hotel is even offering 10% off to Pride-goers booking for two nights (see their advert below)

Other nearby accommodation includes the luxury Staying Cool penthouse apartments at the top of the Rotunda, providing sturning views across the

If you're on a tighter budget, the lbis, Holiday Inn, Travelogge, Ibis Budget and Nite Nite are all just a stone's throw from Birmingham's gay village

For a full list of Birmingham's hotels - and for more information about the city itself - visit www.visitbirmingham.com



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SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 MAY



SHOPPING

Birmingham has a huge selection of retail outlets - perfect for those who love to shop till they drop! Head into the city centre and pick up a new outfit for Pride!

Just around the corner from Birming ham's Gay Village is the upmarket Mailbox - Birmingham's premier shopping and lifestyle destination - with exclusive stores, restaurants, cafe bars, hotels and 24 hour parking The Malbox features one of Britain's most luxurious and iconic stores. Har vey Nichols.

The Bullring, meanwhile, is the Midiands' ultimate shopping destination. It boasts over 160 shops and 40 restaurants, including the iconic Selfridges and the region's only UGG Australia and Forever 21 stores. For more information about shopping in Birmingham, visit www.visitbirmingham.co.uk.

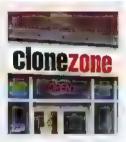


GAY SHOPPING AT CLONE ZONE

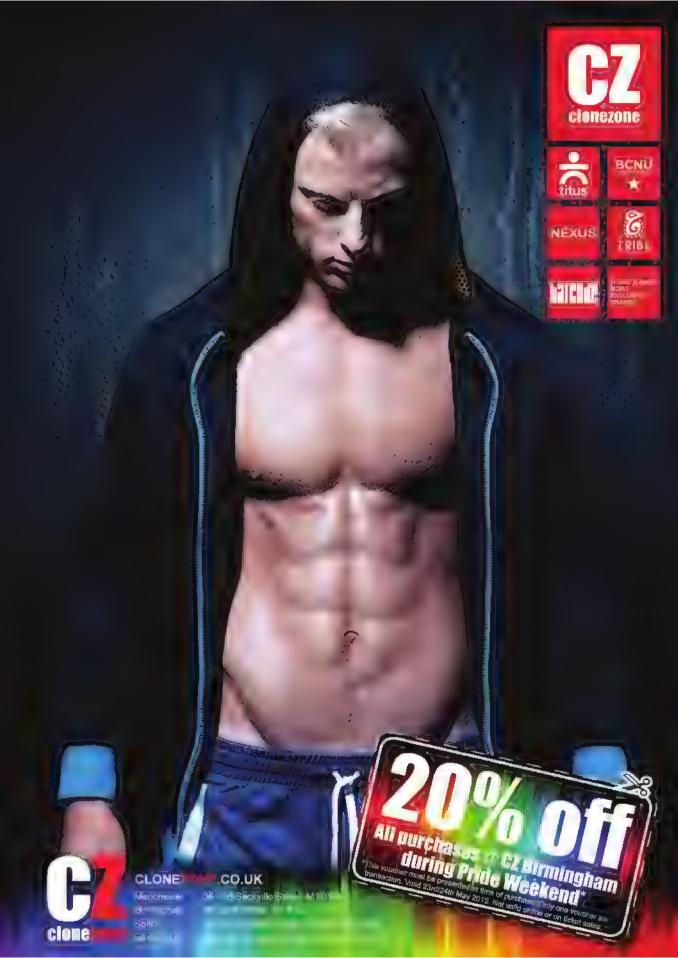
Birmingham is home to one of the country's best gay men's boutiques.

Clone Zone on Hurst Street stocks a wide range of underwear, sex toys, books, DVDs and novelty items.

Pop in to Clone Zone over the Pride weekend and receive 10% discount when you show their advert in this Pride Guide!









Brighton & Hove Pride 2015

25T ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PRIDE IN THE CITY

The UK'S Biggest Pride Festival campaigning for Global LGBT+ Equality and Diversity and raising essential funds for our community organisations.



PRIDE DIVERSITY GAMES

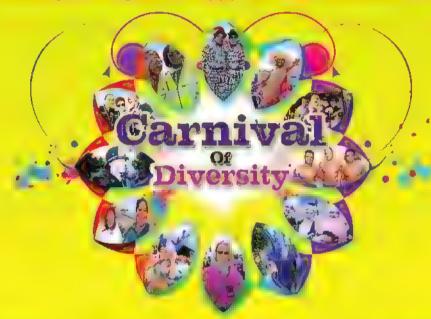
IN PARTICULARITY OF THE PESTIVAL

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The opening the true step specific step

Wishing Birmingham a happy, safe and successful Pride



HUMAN LEAGUE JESS GLYNNE FATBOY SLIM TULISA FOXES MS DYNAMITE

HERCULES AND LOVE AFFAIR BRIGHT LIGHT BRIGHT LIGHT
KELI-LEIGH FREEMASONS SEAMUS HAJI WAYNE G CARNIVAL COLLECTIVE

Plus 14 entertrumment areas including Dance Tents - Legends Cabaret Big Bop - Mens and Bears Zone - Radio Reverb Alternative Music Stage Sheila McWattie Womens Acoustic Stage - Girls Dance Tent - Community Village - Market - Family Diversity Area - Funfair - and much much more.

FESTIVAL TICKETS: SAVE £6.50* by booking your ticket NOW on-line before end of May.

Then £21.00 / £25 on the day (for full price ticket) - For VIP offers see Brighton-Pride.org



Scan here to purchase tickets o your mobile device





















TRAVELLING TO PRIDE



FROM THE MI

- From Junction 6 of the M6 to low the signs for B rm ngham Central.
- Follow the A38 (M) for two miles (signs for the city centre)
- At the end of the motorway, take the flyover signed M5 South West.
- Coming off the flyover pass under the tunnel following signs for Inner Ring Road South.
- · Take the next tunner (Queensway).
- Follow signs for Bromsgrove A38, which takes you to a third underpass
- On surfacing, get in the left-hand lane, take the 2nd left (Wrentham Street)
 Go to the bottom take a left then third left.
 The Arcadian car park is on your left.



FROM THE M5

- From Junction 4, follow the signs for Birmingham along the A38 through Northfield and Selly Oak
- Going over the traffic lights at Bristoi Street (McDonalds on your left), move into the left lane (signed BR New Street).
- Passing the 02 Academy on your left, move into the right-hand lane
- Turn ful circle at this roundabout (Holloway Circus),
- Take fourth left (Wrentham Street),
 Go to the bottom take a left, then third left.
 The Arcad an car park is on your left.
 Directly outside the car park is one of the entrances to the Pride site.



FROM NEW STREET TRAIN STATION

- Exit the station onto Stephenson Street (new exit entrance)
- . Walk approx 300 yards to the road unction

For the Gay Village

- Take a left at the road unctron Walk down to the traffic lights. Cross straight over onto Hurst Street.
- The Pride site entrance point and wristband exchange is 50 yards after you pass the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre

For the Parade:

- . Take a right at the road junction
- . Walk up to the top of Hill Street.
- Take a left and Victoria Square is on the right, in front of the Council House.





ABplus is a member led service for people living with HIV.

SERVICES FOR MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Monday & Fridays there is an open access providing Fareshare (food-bank), peer support a meal at lunchtime and one to one support.
- Access to support from Freshwinds, Red Cross, Terrence Higgins Trust and Barnardos at ABplus
- Referrals and signposting to other supports services and social care.
- Peer support groups for men, women living with HIV.
- Support for respite breaks and opportunities for parsonnal development via mining and workshops

For further details call 0121 622 6471 or amail@abplus.org.uk

To make a donation please
TEXT ABPL45 to 70070

29/30 Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, 85 6SN www.abplus.org.uk

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HIV & Sexual Health



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SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 MAY



USEFUL INFO

Please read the following information carefully to get the maximum festival enjoyment...

Do you have to buy a ticket/wristband to enjoy Pride?

You will need to purchase a TICKET/WRISTBAND to enter the B rmingham Pride festival site. Children under five don't need a wristband but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If you don't have a ticket/wristband you will still be able to enjoy the Carniva Parade completely FREE of charge

Do you have to be gay to attend?

No, you don't! Birmingham Pride is a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community - but everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations

However, any Individuals who're found to have been homophobic or transphobic will be elected from the Pride site.

Anti-social or homophobic behaviour?

Birmingham Pride operates ZERO TOLERANCE towards anti-social or homophobic/transphobic behaviour We reserve the right to eject anyoody from the festival site

Pride at night from 8pm: 18+ ONLY

After 8pm on both Saturday and Sunday only visitors who're over 18 will be permitted entry. We operate a Challenge 25 policy - so if you're lucky enough to look under 25, please ensure that you bring appropriate ID.

Anyone who's under 18 is we come to stay on the site after 8pm - but if they leave the site, they will not be able to gain entry after 8pm

Wristbands will be required for access throughout the night.

Are children welcome?

We encourage families to attend Pride Children under 14 must be accompanied at all times by an adult, Children under five get FREE ENTRY so do not require a wristband (Maximum of two children per parent or guardian)

Wristband Information

If you've purchased a ticket prior to the festival, you will need to exchange this ticket for a wristband on the day please see the Site Map on where you should do this.

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void Wristbands must be intact, in one

piece, and worn at all times.

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances - and if you aren't wearing a vaild wristband you will be asked to leave the festival site

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site

Can we take alcohol and drinks into Pride?

No alcohol or glass can be taken on to the festival site

Sealed plastic bottles of water are allowed. There will be lots of bars and catering within the site

VIP Tickets

The special VIP Weekend passes entitle the holder to:

- Meet and-greet opportunities with selected artists. However, this cannot be guaranteed.
- > Fast track entry into the site
- > VIP bar at The Penthouse
- > VIP main stage viewing area
- > VIP cabaret stage viewing area



Where can we park?

There are three main car parks nearby that you can use over the Birmingham Pride weekend, Please see the map on page 8/9 for their locations. The Arcadian car park and Chinatown car park on Wrottesley Street - operated by APCOA - are both offering £10 per day parking for ticket holders/wristband holders on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May (representing a 50% discount on normal charges) They're also offering a special weekend rate of £20 for parking from 8am on Saturday 23 May until 11am on Monday 25 May. Car park customers would need to visit the klosk on arrival and show a wristband or event ticket to get the special rate

Where do any profits go?

Birmingham Pride is a very costly festival to stage each year and has over £100,000 of basic infrastructure costs, which is why we charge an entrance fee for the festival

However, Pride is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT organisation, and profits raised go to local LGBT and HIV AIDS charities and organisations

Disabled Visitors

The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for our disabled community. There are various features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride, visit our website below for further information.

FOR FORTH FRICTION MATCHINAROUS VISON VANDBIRMONGHAMPRODE COM

AT CLONEZONE BIRMINGHAM

GROUND FLOOR

MEN'S FASHION AROMAS UNDERWEAR SEX TOYS JOCKS LUBES - DVDs

INVINCIBLE RUBBER BARCODE BERLIN TITUS FETISH FREAK AND MORE



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Manchester Birmingham

Early Court

36 - 38 Sackville Street, M1 3WA 84 Hurst Street, B5 4TD

35 Old Compton Street, London W1D 5.IX 266 Old Examples Road London SWILLIAM









YOUR FASHIO







With the Pride season kicking off this month, it's time to spruce up your wardrobe with summery offerings from some of our favourite high street stores. Here are six of the best...

01 White MIA Sunset T-shirt

This white M.A Sunset tee from New Look features simple, short sleeves with a classic crew neck ine and has a slim fit. Pair It with brack eans and grey plim-

£14.99

www.newlook.co.uk

02 White Jaded Chevron Stripe T-Shirt

Infuse Jaded's street style aesthetic into your casual wardrobe with this monochrome t-shirt Its bold chevron stripe print comes complete with Jaded's brand logo for a directional week end look.

www.riveristand.com

03 White Make Me An Offer T-shirt

Add some character to your look this season with a statement slogar lee this design is sure lo attract some attention at a Pride event this summerf

£7 99

WWW.neWlook.co uk

04 Lace-ир Espadrilles

S ip on a pair of lace-up espadrilles. Stylish. bright and comfortable they also come in dark blue. Great paired with shorts and t-shirt.

£14.99

www.hm.com

05 Khaki Green Chino Shorts

Keep your warmweather look stylish and timeless in these khaki green slim chino shorts Featuring a button fastened fly, rolled hems and contrast lining

www.riverisland.com

06 Straw Hat

Summer isn't summer without a hat. We've picked out this classic straw hat, featuring a grosgrain band

£12 99

www.hm.com













01 Instacube

The Instacube brings your nstagram account to life at tome Connect tto the net via WiFi, pop in your account delar s and boom a scrowing stideshow of your arty Instagram photos!

E149.99

www firebox.com

02 Withings Aura

The Aura is designed to monitor your seep quality. Combining a sleep sensor tucked under the mattress, a bediside device utilising light and sound programmes and a smartphone app.

£249.95

www.withings.com

03 The Vamp

Thanks to The Vamp, old speakers have a new lease of life. They can now be used in all sorts of new situations, enjwhere you choose.

COLUM

www.thevamp.co.uk

04 Power Wallet

Running out of phone bat tery is annoying. Coming to the rescue is this luxury men's leather wallet with its built-in rechargeable battery Compatible with MicrouSB devices and Phones.

259.95

www.cuckooland.com

05 Lomo Instant Camera

t's the most creative way to shoot fantastic photos on the move, meaning you can share them anywhere with anyone in an instant

£100.00

www.amazon.co.uk





01 Emoticon Cushlons

These funky sofa cushions are made to order here in the LX and have removable covers for a 30-degree machine wash. Available in three sizes, complete with the cushion-insert pad or as cushion covers only Available in sizes 28x23cm 45cm x 45cm and 80x80cm £19.99

www.kico-taptrays.co.uk

02 Bow Hammock

This contemporary design will complement any garden or patio, while the ampie canyas provides the perfect place to take an afternoon nap. The frame is made from pretreated archwood, which means it can be left in the garden all year round, £139,00

www.livingstup.co.uk

03 La Haclenda - Moda Enamel Firepit

Quick and easy to use, create a log fire within the bowl of the product, position the protective mash cover and wait for the flames to dance Relax in your favourite position and enjoy the flickering flames of the fire 567.50

www.whitestores.co.uk

04 LE CIRQUE 1

This unique outdoor seaf is finished in Gmeina wood and lickinous fabric Made-to-measure to fit any outdoor space, if can be customised with a number of fabrics and leather choices. The wooden frame is available in beige of black Dimensions. High 230 cm D 215 cm W 91 5 cm Seat High 250 cm D 81,5 cm £13,800 www.touchedinteriors.co.uk



Cougar The Musical

Coudars are women of a certain age who seek sexual relationships with younger men. There are three of them in this show (cougars, that is), all of whom are desperately disillusioned with life - at least until they unleash their 'inner cougar' by dating the aforementioned younger men! But for these particular women, the experience doesn't just lead to lots of hot fun with guys who ve got far fewer wrinkles than they have - in the process they also get to discover both self-love and empowerment. "This cougar exploration is entirely funny and poignant and goofy and carryy and soulful and grounding and healing," says creator Donna Moore, "I want nothing less than for everyone who sees the show to leave with their spirits uplifted, a song in their heart and a racy story to share with their friends 1 This brand new production, marking the show's UK premiere, is directed by the Beigrade's Creative Associate. Patricia Benecke

Creative Associate. Patricia Bened Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 16 May - Sat 6 June



The Bodyguard

Award winning musical based on the blockbuster film. X Factor winner Alexandra Burke taxes the lead as Rache, Moran at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre & Birmingham Hippodrome, while Zoe Birkett (ITV's Pop Idol Priscilla Queen Of The Desert & Thriller Live) takes top billing at Stoke's Regent Theatre

This blockbusting West End musical is, of course, based on the similarly blockbusting 1990s Hollywood movie starting Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

When ex Secret Service agent Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker, sparks soon begin to fly between the pair. Each expects to hold the whilp-hand in the relationship neither expects to fall in love Featuring classic numbers including One Moment In Time I Wanna Dance With Somebody and the legendary I Will Aways Love You, the show received mixed reviews from the critics when it opened in 2012 but has proved to be a real hit with audiences.

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 19 - Sat 30 May



The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice

One-time Corrie stars Chris Gascoyne and Vicky Entwistle here star in J in Cartwright's much-loved musical. Featuring songs from some of the world's most iconic divas, including Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey and Judy Gariand, this Olivier Award-winning show tells the story of a shy young girl with an incred ble talent for vocal impersonations who suddenly finds hersef cataputed into the lime gift by a local talent scout.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Frl 15 to Sat 30 May



Take That

The JK's most successful live act ever, Take That are back on the road it is four long years is note the bands last record breaking tour, Progress Live, so Mark, Gary and Howard is decision to play 24 dates this Spring hash the come a moment too soon for their ever-adoring fans.

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Mon 11 - Tue 12.

Thurs 14 - Sat 16 May

Bromance

Celebrating at things blokey, a.-male acrobatic the Barely Methodical Troupe won a Total Theatre Award at the 2014 Edinburgh Festival They visit Coventry with an award-winning show that sloothing and touching, exploring the limits of male companionship via a series of risk-taking physical feats.

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May



Lucy Ward

Having from Derby. Lucy won the Horizon Award in 2012 and was nominated as last year's BBC Radio Two Folk Singer Of The Year Possessing a voice that sibbeen called expressive and powerfur, she names Joni Mitchell and Joan Armatrading as her inspirations. A talented songwriter she last year picked up Best Original Song at the Spiral Earth Awards, and has been called one of the UK folk scene's hottest performers.

Stafford Gatehouse, Tues 5 May



Tomorrowland - A World Beyond

CERT tbc

Starring George Clooney, Hugh Laurle, Britt Robertson, Raffey Cassidy, Tim McGraw, Kathryn Hahn, Judy Green Directed by Brad Bird (USA)

It is a Wonderful World. Or, in this case, a place in time and space that changes due to our very actions (much like real life but more so). George Clooney stars as a jaded inventor whose disclusionment with his own world is transformed by the scientific curtosity and optimism of a teenager. So, together, they travel to Tomorrowland. Like Pirates of the Caribbean and the Eddie Murphy comedy The Haunted Mansion, Tomorrowland is based on a Disney theme park attraction, which is really weird. The director, Brad Bird, previously brought us The Incredibles and Mission, Impossible - Ghost Protocol. Out 22 May



Pitch Perfect 2 CERT 120 (100 m ns)

Starring Anna Kendrick, Sxylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Adam Devine, John Michael Higgins, Elizabeth Banks Directed by Elizabeth Banks (USA)

The a cappe la group calling themselves the Barden Beilas are back, this time to compete in an international event. And to stack the odds, an American group has never won before. Out 15 May



The Cobbler CERT IDE

Starring Adam Sandler, Dustin Hoffman, Method Man, Ellen Barkin, Steve Buscemi, Melonie Diaz, Dan Stevens Directed by Thomas McCarthy (USA)

When New York cobb er Max Simkin (Sandler) discovers a magic heirloom he finds that he can literally step into other people's shoes. Thomas McCarthy, incidentally previously directed the critically idolised The Station Agent and The Visitor, Out 22 May

Big Game

CERT12a '90 m ns

Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Onni Tommilla, Ray Stevenson, Victor Garber, Ted Levine, Felicity Huffman, Jim Broadbert Directed by Jalmari Helander (Finland/Germany UK)

The most expensive Finnish film in history, Big Game would seem to be an unlikely Scandinavian export. Samuel L Jackson plays the US president whose piane is shot down by terrorists, landing him in the middle of a Finnish forest. It would seem that only a thirteen year-old boy (Tommia) out hunting for deer - is around to help him ... Out 8 May



Mad Max: Fury Road CERT the

Starring Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult, Zoë Kravitz, Fosie Huntington-Whiteley, Riley Keough, Hugh Keays-Byrne Directed by George Miller (Australia/USA)

Two rebels - a man and a woman join forces to circumnavigate the desert in a post apocalyptic unit

verse gone mad... Thirty years after the ast Mad Max film (Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, 1985), and twenty-five years in development hell, Fury Road arrives with a budget of \$150 million. Mel Gibson, now \$9, is obviously a tad too ong in the tooth to play the road warrior, and is replaced by Torn Hardy. Hardy should certainly do the franchise justice and is paired by three of the sexiest women in the cinema firmament. Charize Theron, Zoê Kravitz and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. Can the series retain its Fury? Is it another dystopain future too many? Its thespian heft should certainly play in its favour. Out 15 May

DVDs

Seek (15)



Evan is a hot, young gay newspaper writer - and he's just had his heart broken Attempting to shake off his melancholy he takes on an assignment profiting Hunter, an alluring gay club promoter Around the guys are a host of other twentysomething urbanites, all longing for the

same thing approval Whether it's via the in-crowd, the hottle across the bar or the industry in which they work, they're all striving for something greater and falling to appreciate what they already have ... Out Monday 25 May

Broken Gardenias (15)



Cool, darkly funny and always surprising. Broken Garden as is a touching comedydrama about two very different girls who embark on a journey of self-discovery and blossoming love through the heart land of America.

Uber-nerd Jenni is having a tough time. Just as she hits an ai-time low, she meets street hastler Samantha.
Immediately developing a bond, the two women set off on a road trip to find Jenni s long-tost father.
Along the way, in addition to a series of brill arity conceived encounters: their unlikely int macy grows.
Out Monday 11 May

...and something to read

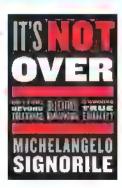
It's Not Over...

Michelangelo Signorile

Marriage equality has surged across the US. Closet doors have burst open in business, entertainment and even major league sports.

But as longtime advocate Michelangelo Signorile argues in this provocative book, the excitement of such breathless change makes the moment more dangerous than ever

Puncturing the illusion that victory is now nevitable, Signonle marshals stinging evidence that homophobia is still a basic fact of American life.



New Music



85% Proof

The Brit Award winning artist returns this month with his sixth album. An eciectic treat for any Will Young fan, the album features fantastic lead single Love Revolution.

FLORENCE



How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful Florence +The Machine

Brit and Grammy Award winning Florence # The Machine make a welcome return with their fantastic new album, written and recorded over the past 12 months. Florence has never sounded better. A must have!

Wilder Mind

Mumford & Sons (another Brit Award winner) release this album after developing a new style, departing s ghtly from the sound that many know and love An interesting a.bum



which any Mumford fan wii. love



WIN! A Bear Essential clothing package!

With Birmingham Pride kicking off the UK's Pride season late this month, it's time to get some new clothes to ensure you're looking your beat!

We ve teamed up with new local clothing brand Bear Essential to give away one of its fabulous tishirts and a hoody

Bear Essential is run by lan and Steve and provides locally developed styl shiclothing with integrity and forethought'

Its line-up of products, neuding t shirts, caps and hoodies, is inspired by a desire for uncomplicated menswear

The tems are characterised by their unique logo and versatility in fabric and colours

lan and Steve will be showing off their Bear Essential products at Birmingham Pride or Saturday 23 May, so swing by and say h!

For your chance to win a Bear Essential clothing package worth £35, visit www.midlandszone co uk and answer the following question

Which famous bear enjoys eating marmalade sandwiches?

- A) Yogl
- 8) Rupert C) Paddington
- C) Faudingto

Good luckt

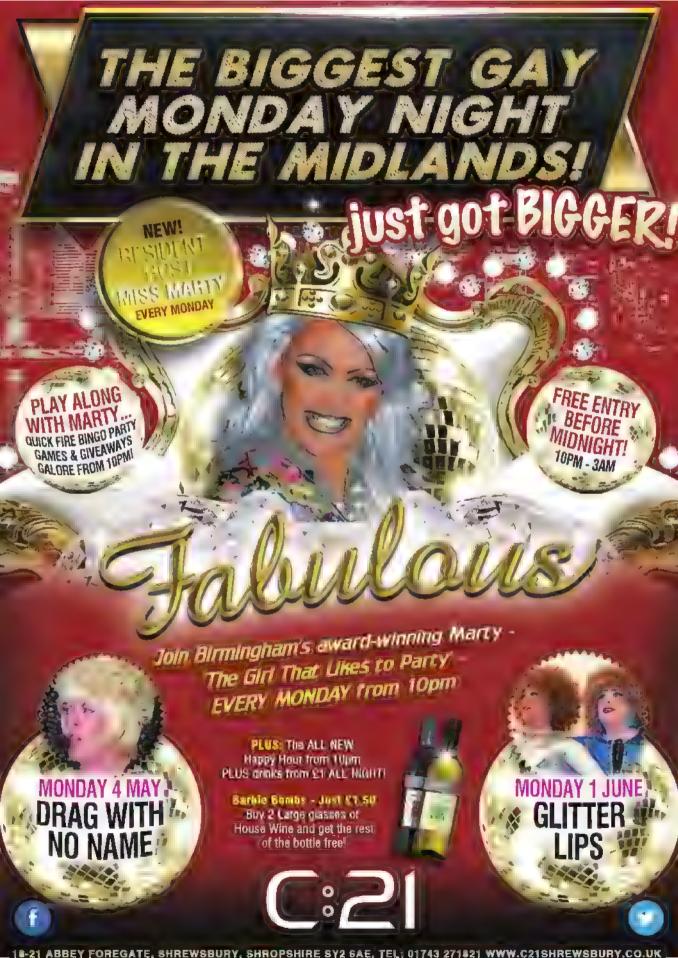


Chica this great companion cause it reparable not come so up dators Wednesday 23 May











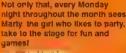




THE DRAG WITH NO NAME returns to Shrewsbury's C:21

Shrewsbury is one of the biggest gay nights in the West Midlands The first Monday of every month sees the popular venue hosting live cabaret, with May's spot being filled by the one and only Drag With No Namel Not only that, every Monday night throughout the month sees

Monday nights at C:21 in



Rate Build Blant



BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS AT BRUM RAR

When you've finished work for the day, instead of heading straight home, why not pop into The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a cheeky cocktail or two? Selected cocktalls are two-forone all day and night between Sunday and Friday! Boocom! THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTARLS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with Do Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am MISSING BAR

PLAY YOUR CAROL RIGHT

with Mrs Mills and Du Deano Cash prizes and free drinks Happy Hour 12noon 10pm. THE VILLAGE DAY

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm enwards £1

IT'S THE MINISTRY OF POUND AT MISSING!

Birmingham's popular Missing Bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday From 9pm onwards, you can get your hands on selected drinks from £1 Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offert

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

on selected spirits £1 50 Jagerbomb , Carling , Strongbow / Sambucca.

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 Janous D.s. MICHITAGALE COUR

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly drink y i M + ⊢a

BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS Rog Jesten

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party). Mon 4 May - Live cabaret with drag duo Gitter Lps Free admission before midnight and just £3 after. Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at

C:21. SHREWSBURY

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night. Everything is £2 Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILLAX and Free Poor WI

THE WHITE HAST. WOLVERHAMPTON

CHIEL NIGHT WITH KARAO THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

GET THE PARTY STARTED idmission With DJ Foxy Divine Upen 5pm-4am GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT --- 104

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT



2 TILL 2 Ones from 2om till 2am in a quiet drink in a friendly

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO BOW HOMERONS NOTTINGHAM

MAY (5) 12



TACKY TUESDAYS

Birmingham gay scene favourites Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte offer a night of fun and games every Tuesday at The Village Inn. Boasting laughs and prizes galore, it's a perfect way to get rid of any start-of-the-week blues you may be suffering! Go on, pop in and say hello!



2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday A day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE

DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF T TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME WITH '90s NIGHT

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night

10 30pm-3am

The 1990s - the decade when We were introduced to the Spice Girls and many more fantastic pop groups. Re-live it by heading to The Nightingale's '90s night. You'll love it for sure! THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

KARAOKE TIME AT MISSING BAR

Everyone loves a bit of karaoke In their lives - so head to Missing Bar in Birmingham and join DJ James from 9pm till late. Whether you're good or bad at singing, it's great fun so go on, grab the mic! MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

MISSING KARAOKE With your host

DJ James. Party starts at 9pm til iate

w OAA



2 MEALS FOR £10

If you're peckish, head down to Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate to enjoy, setting you up for a top night on the town. We ve tried it and it's fab!

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny Songs Games & Prizes Happy Hour 12noon 10pm THE WOLLDE LOW

THUSE UP THE BOAT F A. 7 3 F 4 | | MAR BURGER

PUR PHILIPPES STORES PURES

[, , , THE LION BAR & CLUE, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ With free buffet Quiz.

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY Weekly gay-trieng July piayin -Jring from pop & hip ... VELVET, WORGESTER

FLAUNT A twi

BREWERY TAP. WORCESTER

SAMMIE'S SINGERS KARAOKP

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS Hosied

BAINISOWS. The second

2 TILL 2 Open or or a quephere

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON CHILL OUT NIGHT F - 4 7

NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

GAMES NIGHT F - F 104 1 Nintendo Air tram 6:-DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER









Wednesdays are 2 6000 2 MISS at Missing Bar in Broom

Missing Bar in Birmingham ertainly knows how to throw an awesome party, egardiess of which day of he week it is! Pop in for a night of midweek fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mike Emery and the rest of the venue's team. It may be a school night, but a cheeky drink or two won't hust, will t? We'll be seeing you on the dancefloor!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktait menu.

SIDEWALK

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Finday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from Jist. £2 with Du Mike Emery

IT'S COCKTAIL TIME AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

Rather than heading out for a pint or a double vocks and coke, why not opt for a cocktall? Or better still, how about two? The Loft Lounge in Birmingham is offering two gorgeous cocktails for the price of onel if you're hungry, why not grab a bite to eat as well? THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM



Pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show off your Harlotte and DJ Deano. fou may not walk away with a million pound recording contract, but you can walk away with a sense of pride!

Morrow River

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlotte

THE VILLAGE INN

DADDY'S DEALS BED FIRM FORM

Tax Fox

WALLS FOR THE OWNER.

rusti 2am Open 10pm

BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE Line Dancing

THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDEANDS

EVIDADAY OLDER BARRET 9- 19-7

THREE FURNACES, TELFORO

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Ka - 5 the fields .

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

LEAST MIDEANDS

GAMES NIGHT F F .. 47 % pm

NEW FORESTERS, HOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE The Francisco THE BOSTON NORTHAMPTON

The second second

NG1 NOTEINGHAM

GAMES NIGHT AT THE **NEW FORESTERS**

If you're looking for something to do in Nottingham on a Wednesday night, then head down to The New Foresters for free pool and cheap drink! THE NEW FORESTERS - NOTTS

MAY









POUNDED at the Migramogale

Every Thursday sees the students of Birmingham's gay scene head to The Nightingale for the biggest party in the city. There are cheap drinks and it's only £5 entry alt night. Plus, expect the dancefloor to be rammed thanks to the fantastic tunes of DJ Corey. See

you on the dancefloor!

Living the County ages



BIRMINGHAN

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two

THE LOFT LOWNER

CHARLES HIDES Thurs 28 May Live caparet with TV and inter net star Charlie ∺ides #



CULT Bringing dirty house back

home. Top Floor from 10pm HIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks Happy Hour 12noon-2am THE VILLAGE BUILD

DRIVER COLD WITH LA VOIX Thurs 7 & 14 May Live caparet with Britain's Got Talent star La Vox including Drag idos

heats seeking Birmingham's up and coming drag talent for the

national talent contest

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend £1.50 on all bombs excluding the Gutterbornb) with our resident DJ Rowan

SIDEWALK.

Enga

I <3 THE 90S with Du Dan, Open from 6pm Dame Hou

MISS MARKY'S MADROUSE.

Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am With Miss Marty and Du

THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1 D_□ Corey playing chart dance and urban on Ground Floor Miss Marty and DJ Craig with as the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor

MICHERINGALE CLIRE

SHOT EXCHANGE Keep your eyes on the screens as demand can push drinks prices up and down random market crashes will have the prices plummeting but the low prices don't stay around for long THE CORE

THROWBACK THURSDAY \$1.20 nombs With DJ Mykee Minney Back

DT GYROLL BOTTVH KYRYCHI Drinks from £1

PARTY POP Poptastic tunage with D. Matt. Happy Hour unt. 2am Open 9pm until very late BAR JESTER

WEST LINE WIDE

MAD COW 4 . . . 4. 4. 4 7 - 4 GORGEOUS, WOLVES

CAMP KARAOKE and cabaret with

THREE FORMACES, TELFORD

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE From the

THE LIDN. WALSALL GET OUT . [To r

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE MOSES MADNESS A

THE WHITE HAHT, WOLVERHAMPTON

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm II 2a 4

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON











LIFE IS A CABARET #1 Streenmeretesten . Mister totel

If you're out on a Friday night and looking for some great entertain ment, then look no further than Birmingham's award-winning Village inn. May sees four great acts take to the stage. Kicking off the month's line-up is camp duo Gifter Lips on Friday the 1st, whilst the following week sees Miss Penny dropping in to say hi. Miss Marty gives it her all on Friday the 15th and gearing you up for Pride on Friday the 22nd, it's andra. Wrapping things up on the 29th is Miss Jason.



2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES D. Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourtes Enjoy all day every day prices too! Samuel 6

RIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems at night long with Missing's Du James Open unt the early hours

DISCO & KARAOKE with D.I Nikk. THE RAIL

FREAKY FRIDAY With Du Lotty Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am Fri 1 May Glitter ups Fri 8 May Miss Penny Fri 15 May Miss Marty Fn 22 May Sandra Fri 29 May Miss Jason.

THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Froor Fillers with Du Corey Drinks from £2 Admission

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours Hosted by James

Mornin Rasi

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open unt. 6am every Friday THE VILLAGE INN

UP GLOSS - Fri 8 May - With new host, Miss Penny Live entertainment from Sam Buca and stripper Extreme

MIDSBEARS - Fri 22 May - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers Francisco

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playna same of the best in old skooi garage. A night not to be missed NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - Fri 29 May - Every last Friday monthly South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.

Міситіне Сше

EDEN BAR

MATHER PRINCE RECGIAL - FR TO STAV

 South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra Money

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DJ N.kk. every Friday your chance to win cash

Time Has

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul. funk, rock, motown Northern Soul and all the classic favourites THE LOFT LOUNGE

Maria Mila walling

BANG To the second 1 4 6 1 6 1

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos unt 45 Free entry hetore 1 THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

XXI. - Fr. 29 May - Men only night with Du Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month

THE CORE CHIE

FUNK'D UP A .pilting tunky voi - -

Cum Chic

KARAOKE Come and have a sind o start your weekend.

THE FOX

Commentary to

- n yom _nut , - ate

DUBBLE STREET

GORGEOUS CLUB. WOLVERNAMPTON

TV PARTY KIGHT A Men's Night for TVs. Cross Dressers and Fire Friday night af THE GREENHOUSE, DARLASTON

THE LIGH, WALSALL

DATE FROM FROM THE e e a party e the form [married mile in ? RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL . . .

THE BELL STOURBRIDGE

KARAOKE with Du Shawn and E Moses 8om-4an THE WHITE HARL WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND F sion before 11pm Tanya Hy

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

TELERIDAY A tu a market are of 70s by highlene in nt cha

BREWERY TAP. WORCESTER

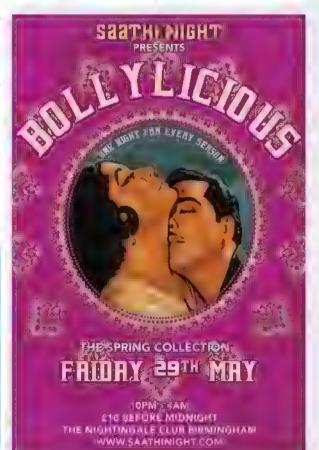
EAST MIDEANDS

CLUB NIGHT WITH DUR -Lambeth from midnight playing chart toppers. HELSINKI, LEICESTER

PINK POUNDER OF FOR THE PERSON OF THE PERSON

THE BOSTON, NOSTHAMPTON

VALUE FRIDAY . NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM





the Midlands b ggest men-on y night take place at The Core in B rmingham. Join OJ Christian M for a great men of the Midlands on Friday the 22nd.



Lots of acts and DJs at BIRMINGHAM PRIDE 2015!

As you'd expect, this year's Birmingham Pride means there are plenty of acts and DJs putting in an appearance at the city's numerous gay bars and clubs. The line-up has something for everyone, from today's best singers - such as MNEK at The Nightingale - to the best artists from the 1980s and '90s, like Kym Mazelle and Limahl at Eden. And there a even more choice when it comes to DJs, playing their floor-fillers at venues such as The Village Inn, Missing, Amusement 13 (formerly DV8), RSVP and more!



BIRMINGHAM

MIRITO PART OF STREET

80\$ HITS with D_o Dan from 2am it is back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions

can like

THE ATTIC Available for hire Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256

Montey But

BACK TO THE 80S 2am 4am.

AT THE VILLAGE INN

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in end party the night away!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 Dus Open til 8am With DJ Lotty & Du Richard Moon With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground

THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Froor from 10pm. Niehtweate Cure

DRAG IDOL SEMI-FINAL - Sat 30 May - La Voix and Mary Mac host the Drag idol Semi-final with celebrity judges!

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cherub and Miss Haille James keeping you, entertained with podium dances and fantastic music Entry £5 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY

THE RESERVE

KARAGKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades Missing



AT THE CORE CLUB!

The Core Club in Birmingham is turning Saturdays Fabulous with its new weekly club night. Enjoy the red carpet treatment while hosts Cherub and Miss Haille James keep you entertained with podium dancers and great music.

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday The VILLAGE INN

MELISSA TOTTEN - Sat 2 May -Grammy nominated British singer songwriter, with hits such as The Rhythm piays a live PA for Pride Saturday

EDEN

MNEK - Sat 23 May - Grammy nominated British singer songwriter, with hirs such as The Rhythm piays a live PA for Pride Saturday

MICHTINGALE CLUB

PRIDE PARTY - Sat 23 May - Free entry over the Pride weekend with two floors of music including karaoke 4 bars. 4 DJs and a 6am bar

PRIDE RETRO POP - Sat 23 May - A huge fine-up of 80s and 90s enter tainment on Pride Saturday including Kym Mazelle, _mahl. Nathan Moore, and Gwen Dicky Plus cabaret from Mary Mac. Free entry at night

PRIDE TAKEOVER - Sat 23 May -Starting the Pride Bank Holiday off at Amusement 13 Dus include Mark Radford J Clarke White Label, Toyboy & Robin, Tommy Vercett, Jakin Rabbit Artful Dodger, Surreal, Get Together and The Source

AMUSEMENT 13 (FORMERLY DV8)

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY with De-Mykee praying the best party tunes Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys Open Until 4am Missing Bar

WITH SIMON BAKER

Every Saturday night sees veteran DJ Simon Baker take to the decks at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham, ensuring your evening gets off to a great start. It's the perfect way to relax - or to get the party started! THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything

SO IT GOES RSYP TENT - Sat 23
May - A huge line-up of Dus
across the Pride weekend including Burkie. Benny Rich Clinton
Shawe, Feiton, Wayne Scott-Fox
usa Sharred Wayne H, Antix, Joe
Campbell and Tiny D
RSYP

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
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THE REPRESENTATION E

CLUB CHIE

DJ NIKKI i tst Sat moi

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pi

THE FOX

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KARAOKE E THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

F I SU GORGEOUS WOLVERHAMPTON BIG NIGHT OUT BIG D.

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BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT C

RAINBOWS. COVENTRY

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THE BELL STOURDANGE

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PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

TRANSPORT INTERNATIONAL

n. £3 berore 1am an ... The Boston, Northameton

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10 Imm 3 DJs With D. C. F.

NG1, Ноттивнам

CLUB NIGHT With D., Nink Billing or there and club bath in the same of the sam

Madonna tribute **MELISSA TOTTEN** heads to Eden!

If you're a fan of Madonna then you're In for a treat, because popular Birmingham bar Eden is hosting a night of fantastic music from the UK's finest Madonna tribute act, Melissa Totten! It's free entry all night long, so swing on by on Saturday 2 May and enjoy what's sure to be a great show! NUMBER OF STREET





LIVE CABARET this Price at Missing, Eden and The Village

you're attending Birmingham Pride this year and fancy a bit more cabaret after the Cabaret Marquee closes for another year, hen you're in luck!

Sunday 24 May sees The Village inn play host to the fantastic Bag-Chipz, whilst Twiggy and Miss Penny take to the stage over at Missing Bar

Eden, meanwhile, has the delights of La Volx and her Va Va Voom

THE RESIDENCE PROPERTY.



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Finday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two THE LOFT LOUNGE



用各种高度引起。 火

If you're at Birmingham Pride on Sunday 24 May, check out Amusement 13 (formerly DV8), where Me Dynamite, Redlight and many more are appearing throughout the night. MUSEMENT 13 - DIRMINONAN

BRISTOL CLUB - Sun 24 May -Featuring artists such as Ms Dynamite Redlight Royal T B2B Flava D. Sirus Hood and Youset AMUSEMENT 13 (FORMERLY DV8)

KARAOKE TIME ST EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI

If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar In Birmingham's Gay Vislage every Sunday night DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to! EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

DISCO & KARAOKE With DJ Nikki Every Sunday Direct Man

MELISSA STEEL - Sun 24 May - The British reggae and pop singer who appeared on hit single Loved You will be live on stage on Pride Sunday

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MASS PERMY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by



EHRY'S SUPERSIZED WILLIAM AT MISSIFE

lead down to Birmingham's dissing Bar every Sunday and ne one and only Miss Penny She'll be hosting two shows, at 3.30pm and 10.30pm. io on, just do it! ISSING - BANINGHAN

the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8 30pm and 10 30pm Marie Hills

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect handover cure from 9am. Just £7 95. Carvery from 12noon for ust £9.95

THE LOFY LOUMER

LOLA LASAGNE LIVE AT THE VILLAGE INN'

This month we're lucky enough to be treated to not one but two Bank Holldays. On Sunday 3 May, pop to The

Village Inn to see the fantastic Lola Lasagne live on stage. There's great music from DJ Deano too!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

DAVE AULIDAY CAHARET - TA

Bank Hondays two great cabaret acts. Sun 3 May Loia Lasagne Sun 24 May Baga Chipz (Pride Sunday)

THE VILLAGE INN

PRIDE RETRO POP - Sun 24 May - A huge line up of 80s and 90s art sts concluding the Pride weekend including Toyah, Sonia, Hazell Dean and Cheryl Baker Mike Nolan & Jay Aston formerty of Bucks Fizz Plus cabaret from

Britain's Got Talent star La Voix and her Va Va Voom Boyz Free entry all night!

SO IT GOES BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL

If you fancy a day or night of great clubbing on Sunday 3 May, then look no further than So It Goes at The Nightingale. It features a headline set from Oxide & Neutrino, plus regulars such as Felton, Clinton Shawe and many more,
THE REGISTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

SO IT GOES - OXIDE & NEUTRING -

Sun 3 May - A huge ane-up of DJs throughout the day with headliners Oxide & Neutrino plus James Hype Felton Clinton Shawe, D. Sparks Official Nancie, Lisa Sharred, Antix and Tiny Dee

THE NIGHTINGALE

SO IT GOES PRIDE RSVP TENT - Sun 24 May - A huge line-up of Dus

across the Pride weekend including Burkie. Benny Rich Clinton Shawe, Felton, Wayne Scott Fox _sa Sharred Wayne H. Antix, Joe. Campbell and Thy D.

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm. Cure that handover and choose from a vanety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6 95

TWIGGY - Sun 24 May - Live cabaret with Twiggy hosted by Miss Penny Free entry over the Pride weekend with two floors of music including karaoke 4 bars 4 DJs and a 6am bar!

CHILL OUT Look out for the speiai Sunday promotions. Open

THE FOX

BUNUAY IS RUBBAN

THREE COURSE LUNCH Only £7.50 THE WELLINGTON

CABARET WITH TWIGGY AT MISSINE

Wrapping up Missing Bar Pride weekend is a special abaret show from the sensational Twiggy. The night will be hosted by local legend Miss Penny, so you'll be getting a double whammy of drag! Missing - Birmingman

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9: 1.2 1 GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL OUT After the part RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE PARTY LOUNGE Formula or chi. Drag host a ii.

LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

QUEENS OF DRAG with Dox Tacke Plus DJ Shawn's karaoke cabare

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RANDOM PARTY HIGHT Open 7pm 2am with drink promos THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

SUNDAY ROAST Served from . r THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDEANDS

BRUNCH CLUB Brunch for £5 with unimited soft drinks, midd.

HAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

KARAOKE & DISCO NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE WITH T 9pp ... pitchers with free entry a DIGH THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

PRIDE ARTISTS galore in Birmingham's gay village!

Sunday 24 May, the second da and night of Birmingham Pride ees a whole host of art sis and DJs strutting their stuff in the ty s vibrant gay village - from orde vocalist Mellasa Stee at The Nightingale to 80s and 90s legends Toyah and Sonya at Eden. There s lots to see and do, so check out our listings to see just now much stuff is going on during

Pride Sunday!



The Village Inn: Birmingham's party paradise!























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Take a walk on the wild side at Birmingham's Sidewalk!























A great night out at Birmingham's Nightingale Club









an es highlight













Birmingham's **Missing** is THE place to party!







More great photos on facebook facebook.com/m d andszone co uk















Pictures by Laura Byme



A paradise of party fun at Eden in Birmingham











More great photos on facebook acebook com/midiandszone.co.uki















Pictures by Laura Byrne

Birmingham

BAR JESTER Holloway Circus, B1 1EG

Te: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB Lower Essex St. B5 6QP Te 0121 666 6488

CLUB CHIC 28 Horsefair, B11DD Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE Shertock St. B5 6NB Tel: 0121 622 2797 www.theggreekuh.po.uk /thecoreolubbirmingham

EDEN BAR Sherlock St, B5 6NB Tel: 0121 622 1953 www.theedenbar.co.uic

eden.bar See plotures on page 88

EQUATOR Hurst St, B5 6SE Te 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN Wrentham St, B5 6QL Te 0121 622 1452

THE FOX 17 Lower Essex St. B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE 142 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG Te: 0121 6222 444 www.theloftlounge.co.uk The-Loft-Lounge

MISSING BAR Hurst St. B5 6NU Tel: 0121 622 4256 www.missingbar.co.uk

See pictures on page 82

/missingbar See plotures on page 86 THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St. B'ham B5 6RD Tel 0121 622 1718 www.nightingalectub.co.uk 1 thenightingaleclub See pictures on page 85

Hurst St. B5 6SE Tel 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK Hurst Street R1 1EG Tei. 0121 666 6220 www.sidewalkbirmingm.co.uk

Hurst St, B'ham B5 4BD Tel: 0121 622 4742 www.villagebirmingham.co.uk Villageinnbirmingham

THE VILLAGE INN

See pictures on page 81 THE WELLINGTON 72 Bristol St. B5 7AH Tel 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS Short St CV1 2LW Te 024 '6 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE Wesigate Street GL1 2NF

Te: 01452 690u4b KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE 31 New Road DY1J 1AF Tel 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT R Stanley Scient ST13 5HG Ter 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C:21 CLUB Abbey Foregate SY2 6AE Tel 01743 271821 www.c21inar.co.uk C21Nightplub

THE PEACH TREE 21 Abbey Foregate. Tel: 01743 355055 www.thepeachtree.co.uk

ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT 22 Abbey Foregate. SY2 BAF Tel: 01743 271821 www.spiritchampagne.co.uk SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP 4 Hope Street Tei 01782 204957

/gessipatoite

93 Stafford Street ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL 20 Market St, DY8 1AG Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7

Prowd Crowd 1st Mon month , 7 Andsor St Ter 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES 30 Bragnoria Rd Madeley TF 7 4, B Tei 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB Birchills St. **MS2 8NG** Tei. 01922 610977

THE RED LION Park St WS1 1N A Ter 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN 14 Bond St WV2 4AS Tei: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS CLUB S 1 101 S A\1 4. F Te (91.2 1, 147

THE WHITE HART Worcester St. Verz 44i Ter: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG 50 Lowesmoor WR1 25G Ter 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB Ange Row WR1 30N Te 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN 40 Curzon St Tei. 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE 34 Dover St LE16PT Te -0116 255 3052

HELSINKI

94 Rurand St LE1 1SB Te 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE 185 Charles St LE 1 1_A Te 0116 254 7568

SLOANES 3-5 New War LE16RL

Te 0116 255 2220 **VENOM**

YOLO Gay every We. Beig ave Gate LE 1 3GR Te 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON Colede St NN1 2QP Te 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS St Aris St NG1 3_X Te 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN 38 Luwer Par ament Street NG1 3BA ,Gay Friendiv)

NG1 CLUB 76-x0 Lower Par a nent St NG1 1EH

Te 0115 958 8440 PROPAGANDA

8 Broad way NG1 1PS 0115 979 9183

BARS & CLUBS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE **ARE HI-LIGHTED**

III BLACK

CHECK OUT THEIR **ADVERTS** IN THIS ISSUE



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LGBT Network Wolverhampton opens new centre of excellence in the city

Last month saw LGBT Network Wolverhampton open its new centre of excellence - Network House In the city's School Street.

The charity was supported in its move by Wolverhampton City Council, which not behind the initiative and daye probono support for a the legal work rivolved. It also sent out a request for furniture, as a result of which three of the four floors are now furnished and ready

Volunteers came together too, giving a total of 1.831 hours of their time to clean, paint, decorate and furnish the building so that it was ready for its grand opening on Friday 13 April

Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton City Council's managing director, said. "I'm delighted to be able to support the LGBT Wolvernampton Network, and I wish them every success in their new building.

Martha Bishop, LGBT Wolverhampton Network's chief executive said. "The support we've received from the City

Council and numerous private companies in Wolverhampton has been superb.

"Our volunteers have excelled themselves and worked extremely hard to make this project a real ty-

"With our new premises, we can now expand on the services we offer to the LGBT community in Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas."

For more information about the charity, visit www.lgbtwolverhampton.org.uk or ca.l 01902 425092











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- Syphilis Rapid Testing

Our Free & Confidential services in Dudley and Sandwell include:

- Support with dealing with HIV diagnoses and medication adherence
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- Access to Counselling and Complementary therapies
- Free access to condoms and lube
- One to one support with complex issues
- Peer Support Groups
- Support for sero-discordant relationships
- Support and advice around your rights, discrimination or hate
- Twice monthly non-scene Gay & Bisexual Men's group
- UNIQUE Young Persons (16-24 yrs) LGBTQ support

Contact us today to book an appointment or for more information. Unit 2, Holloway House Martin Hill Street, Dudley DY2 8RT Suite 3 1st Floor, Lanchard House, Victoria Street, West Bromwich B70 8ER

Info@shsl.org.uk / 01384 243 220

ACE A Chose of Equality Minist every This way 5 4 July Tell Ullek 42 M2

ACTING OUT An arting proup for the LGBT of the LGBT of

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EARDS & BOOKS Reaching group. Every 1st Monday " with ty Lob" Centre binam.

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DUDLEY LIBRARY LIGHT READING GROUP 15 I See of It only Month Tel or 104 8 His

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Support Groups

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HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Call 01962 221410

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Trans Support

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OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email sally@outskirtgr.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

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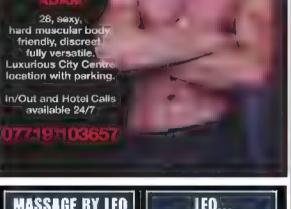
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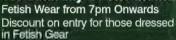
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ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Wedding bells

We live in an age of uncertainty, where stories about civil war and acts of terrorism fill our TV screens on a daily basis. But according to Christwire.org, a website dedicated to 'conservative values for an unsaved world', it's not global warming, sword-wielding jihadists or suicide bombers we need to fear. At number three of their '14 Outrageous Secrets That A Homosexual Will Never Tell You' is the 'fact' that 'Homosexual marriage will usher in an epoch of international terror'.

Gay weddings, they claim "will be the new codeword for bestial displays of chintz and pop, bare flesh and sweaty fornication. Who is the bride?
Who is the groom? Will it even matter when plentiful champagne and civil rights speeches muddle guests' minds?"

As someone who's taking a leaf out of Barry Manitow's book and getting married this summer, I'm rather inspired. It hadn't occurred to me that "bare flesh and sweaty fornication" could be a key feature of the wedding day - but it would certainly make for a memorable occasion.

Christwire.org also has views on the honeymoon.

claiming that it will be "redefined as an exercise in international scandal, where homosexual couples travel far and wide to expose their nasty wares to the underprivileged. They will pack suitcases full of dildos and iubricant, pornography and women's wear, as teaching tools to the muscled young men of third world countries'.

I can't wait! When we began to think about our honeymoon in India, I hadn't got any further than packing the antimalaria tablets and sunscreen.

You have to hand it to the conservative Christians; they certainly know how to spice up a wedding!



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